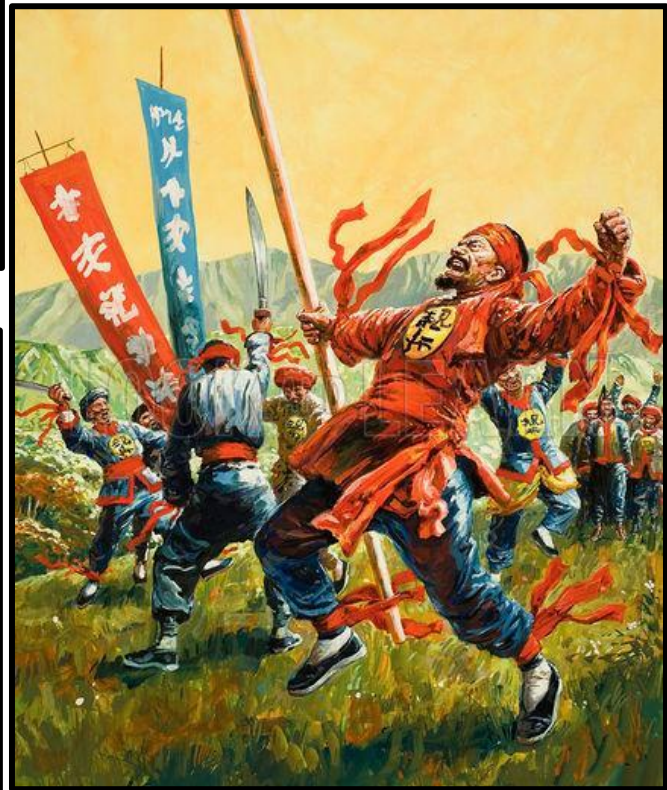


## Reactions to Imperialism

**Enduring Understanding:** The global spread of democratic ideas and nationalist movements occurred during the nineteenth century. To understand the effects of nationalism, industrialism, and imperialism you will explain the reactions to imperialism that resulted from growing nationalism, including the Zulu Wars, the Sepoy Rebellion, the Opium Wars, the Boxer Rebellion, and the Meiji Restoration.



## The Sepoys Revolt Against the British

The **Sepoy Rebellion** in India was a result of British imperialism. The British East India



Company dominated India after the decline of the Mughal Empire. To maintain control of British interests in India, the company hired Indian soldiers known as **Sepoys** to protect their trading interests which were widespread at the time. India was the “**jewel of the crown**” in the British Empire, as it supplied raw materials to Britain’s industries and was viewed as a potential market for the finished products. As Britain increasingly **exerted** its influence over India, the Indians became more oppressed and unhappy in their citizenship. While Britain did build railroads, modern communication systems, and schools in India, they also **suppressed** the local culture. In 1857, rumors spread that the new gun cartridges were greased with beef and

pork fat. The cartridge ends had to be bitten off in order to be used. Since the Sepoys were Hindu and Muslim, and Hindus and Muslims are forbidden from ingesting beef and pork respectively, the Sepoys considered this to be offensive to their religion. This led a revolt

known as the **Sepoy Rebellion** against the British. The uprising against the British took over a year to stop. Once the rebellion had ended, Britain took complete control over India.



### Section Review:

1. Where did the Sepoy Rebellion occur?
2. Why did the British East India Company want to control India?
3. Who were the Sepoys?
4. Why was India referred to as the “Jewel of the Crown”?
5. What occurred in 1857 that upset the Hindu and Muslim Sepoys and caused them to revolt against the British?
6. Who was in control of India after the Sepoy Rebellion ended?

## Japan’s Desire to Westernize

**The Meiji Restoration in Japan** was a response to Japan’s growing nationalism and desire to protect itself from imperial aggression. After being forced to open its ports to trade by the United States, the Japanese decided to take progressive

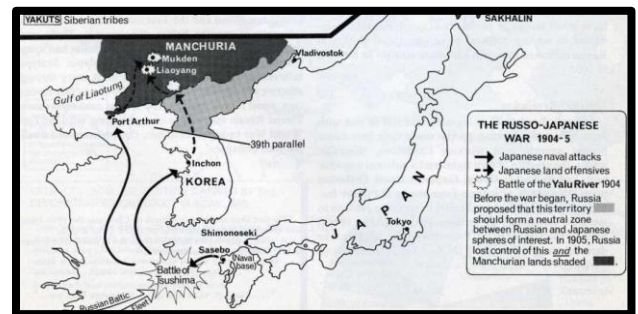


action in order to make its economy and military more like that of the Western powers. In 1868 the emperor of Japan took the title **Meiji** meaning “enlightened rule”. The Meiji government decided to follow a Western model of government and even sent diplomats to study in Europe and the United States. These actions caused some negative reactions from conservatives in Japan, but the Meiji government continued its pursuits. Following these western models, Japan was able to quickly industrialize and began imperial conquests of its own.



In 1894, Japan went to war with China in order to try to gain control of trade in **Korea** so that Japan could have access to raw materials and establish markets for their goods there. China had been in control of Korea at the time. Japan was able to demonstrate to China and the world its new industrial might by quickly defeating China in the **Sino-Japanese War**. Japan gained control of Korea as a result.

Ten years later in 1904, Japan showed its power by quickly defeating Russia in the **Russo-Japanese War**. Russia wanted access to trade with Korea but Japan was still in control of Korea. As the Russians sent a naval fleet headed to Korea, the Japanese navy met them at sea and destroyed much of the Russian Naval Fleet. After a short period of fighting, the Russians surrendered in 1905, acknowledging **Japan's sole right to Korea**. The **Meiji Restoration** therefore successfully made Japan an industrial nation and changed its status becoming a world power with imperial claims and ambitions and rivaled European nations and the United States.



### Section Review:

7. What was the Meiji Restoration?

8. Why did the Meiji government want to follow a western model of government?

9. Who did Japan fight with in 1894 for control over Korea?

10. In which war did China fight for control of Korea?

11. Who fought in the Russo-Japanese war in 1904?

12. Was the Meiji Restoration successful?

## Uprisings in China

The **Opium Wars** and **Boxer Rebellion** took place in China. Europeans wanted to trade with China, but China did not need goods from other countries because they were **self-sufficient** (had everything they needed). Britain was determined to open trade with China and found a product that the Chinese citizens would willingly buy. The product was **opium** (a habit-forming narcotic drug derived from poppy plants). China attempted to stop the opium trade but



they were not successful. Their defeat in the Opium War became a sign that there was going to be an increase in foreign influence in China as the British forced the Chinese to sign a treaty allowing Britain to begin trade in China.

At the same time, China was struggling with an internal rebellion, the **Taiping Rebellion**. The Taiping Rebellion was an attempt to establish a kingdom in which no one would live in poverty. The Taiping Rebellion was unsuccessful. This

rebellion, combined with increasing Western influence, led to increased pressure on the imperial Chinese government to reform. This attempt to reform was known as the **self-strengthening movement**, but was not very successful.



Several countries took advantage of the internal problems in China. Europe, Japan, and the U.S. increasingly gained economic spheres of influence in this region. A **sphere of influence** is when a country has special trading and economic rights within a certain section of another country. In 1899, the United States created the Open Door Policy. The **Open Door Policy** gave the United States equal trading rights in China.



The Chinese government did little to respond to internal and external issues and a nationalistic organization, the **Society of Righteous and Harmonious Fists**, renamed by Europeans as the **Boxers**, used martial arts to try to remove foreigners from Chinese soil and rid China of foreign influence. The Boxers struck out, killing many foreigners and Chinese Christians, while also causing major damage to foreign-owned businesses. The Boxers were defeated by an eight-nation alliance. The Chinese government was forced to pay the nations involved for damages done by the Boxers in the rebellion, and the eight nations were allowed to maintain their spheres of influence. Although the rebellion was a failure, it did lead to an increasing sense of nationalism and need for reform in China.



### Section Review:

13. Which two countries fought in the Opium War?
14. Who did the Boxers want to push out of China?
15. Why did Britain want to trade with China?
16. What was the goal of the Taiping Rebellion?
17. What was the Open Door Policy?
18. Who were the Righteous and Harmonious fists?
19. Who won the Boxer Rebellion?

### Nationalism in the Zulu Kingdom

The **Zulu War** was fought in South Africa because the British and Dutch **Boers** (locals) wanted to imperialize the Zulu's land to take their resources. In the early 1800s, Shaka Zulu, leader of the Zulu Kingdom in South Africa, created a centralized state. The Boers, Dutch settlers known as **Afrikaners**, began taking over land that belonged to the Zulus. In a display of



nationalism, Shaka Zulu led the South Africans in



attacks against the Boers to protect his empire from Dutch control. The leaders of the Zulu kingdom after Shaka Zulu were unable to continue his rule and the British began increasing pressure in the area. In the 1880s, The Zulu War was fought against the British as the Zulus tried to keep their independence. The Zulu War shows the growing sense of nationalism within the Zulu Kingdom. The Zulu nation did not have the same amount of weapons that the British had and were defeated. This defeat led to the Zulu nation becoming part of the British Empire.

### **Section Review:**

**20. Where were the Zulu Wars fought?**

**21. Who was the leader of the Zulu Kingdom?**

**22. Why were European nations interested in the Zulu Kingdom?**

**23. Who were the Boers (Afrikaners)?**

**24. Why did the Zulus fight the British in the 1880s?**

**25. Why were the Zulus defeated by the British?**

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